

Enhanced and Expanded Title IV-E Waiver Strategies - Probation

Introduction: The Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Capped Allocation Demonstration Project (Waiver) provides DCFS and Probation the opportunity to make critical system changes in child welfare services provisions. It enables both improved outcomes for children and families; and enhanced case work practice and performance. Since Waiver implementation in July 2007, the department's performance has improved in the areas of permanency, placement stability and appropriateness of placement. The Department plans to continue this positive trend by expanding existing strategies as well as propose new strategies to further improve outcomes for children and families.

- 1) **Case Management System Enhancements and Data Interface:**
 - a) Improved case management collaboration
 - b) Improved data driven decision making
 - c) Improved re-instatement and processing of Medi-cal required for EPSDT contracted services.
- 2) **Expansion of appropriate evidence-based family focused services**, to be available for immediate access to families upon referral.
- 3) **Expanded capacity of co-located staff**, to be available for investigations of youth crossing over from dependency to delinquency to determine appropriate status and/or need for dual jurisdiction.

Probation proposes to utilize Waiver reinvestment funds toward services that address the following outcomes:

- I. Increased permanency,
- II. Placement Stability, and
- III. Enhanced Self-sufficiency.

I. Increased Permanency

It is critical that children do not languish in out of home care. This means that children are safely reunified, and for those who cannot return home, alternate permanency, including adoption, is achieved in a timely manner. It also means that children in out-of home care are placed in the least restrictive, safe and stable setting, with as few moves as possible. Finally, successful permanency achieved through reunification means that children who are returned home do not re-enter the child welfare or more restrictive probation placement.

Key indicators that Probation will track for increased permanency are: